

John William Simmons was born in Bountiful, Utah, and as very young man he moved with his family to a farm in Charleston, his father, George, homesteaded.

Very little is known of his younger years. He always had to work hard on his father's farm and his own.

A few years before Grandpa was married, he played a bass drum in a little musical group with Will and Joe Simmons.

At the age of 25, he married Phebe Daybell, who was 22 at the time. They were the most handsome couple a person would ever want to see.

They were very active in the Charleston ward and Grandpa directed and played in many productions that were enjoyed by all, and Grandpa loved doing it.

Nine children were born in fifteen years time, the oldest was 16 years old when Grandma Phebe died. She was a wonderful person and everyone loved and appreciated her goodness.

Four years later Grandpa married Aunt Mary, from Star Valley. She had a son, Florin Schless, who came to live with them.

She was loved by all and a good hard working mother.

Aunt Mary was the Charleston ward organist for many years. Five sons were born within eight years. She died in 1936.

Grandpa married Aunt Ella five years later. She was a good wife and mother and the five boys are devoted to her. Today, Aunt Ella lives in Pocatello, Idaho.

Grandpa and Aunt Ella moved to Heber and sold the farm to Uncle Merlin, the oldest son.

Grandpa was always very proud of the farm and it was well taken care of and provided a good livelihood to raise fifteen children. They all have fond memories of the farm and all learned how to work and get along together.

The home in Heber was lovely, and they kept it that way.

Grandpa spent his remaining years with Aunt Ella in Heber. He started making rugs for their home and then made one for each of his children and many others. He received much pleasure from doing this and it is so wonderful to walk with any of his children's homes and see the rug made by their dad in a special place.

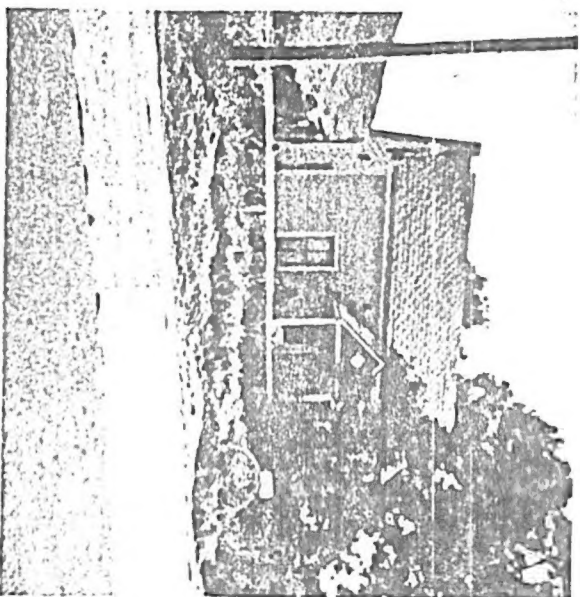
Grandpa loved to fish and hunt. When he was still on the farm, many nights he would walk down to the river and come home with a good supply of fish. He also loved to hunt. It has always been a big occasion when John Simmons and his boys would go deer hunting. Today, it's the boys and their sons, and still a big event for the family. Grandpa wasn't able to hunt in his later years, but loved to fish.

Grandpa's brother, Steve, died in May, so he decided he would die (so he did) the following month in 1961, at the age of 81.

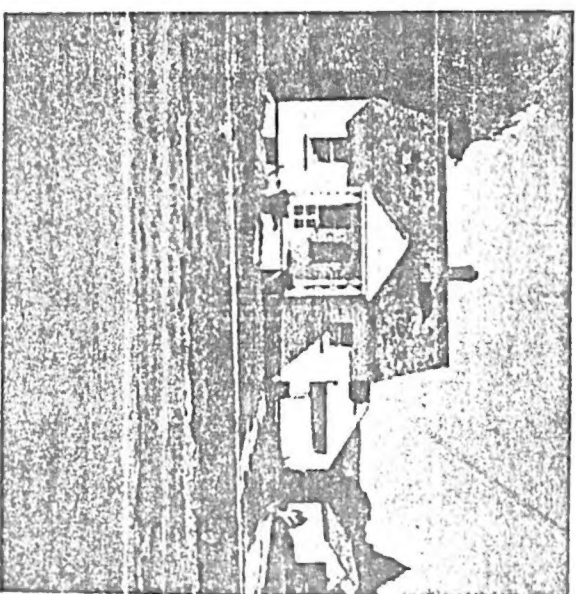
We all tried to get Grandpa to write a history of his younger years, but he always said his life was filled with too many sad things. We realize he had a hard life filled with many tragedies, but still he left us with something very precious. A deep love and respect for his children and they for him.

We all loved to visit Grandpa and Aunt Ella in their home and Grandpa always had a smile and a good time for us all.

Some of us knew him as husband, Dad, Uncle John, and Grandpa, and we all loved him.



HOME IN CHARLESTON, UTAH



HOME IN HEBER, UTAH

FAMILY HISTORY

ELLEN LEBANE BURGER

WORD CAME TO THE FAMILY HERE OF THE DEATH OF MRS. JOHN W. (ELLA M.)

SIMONS. SHE DIED JANUARY 21, 1978 AT A CONVEISCENT HOME IN  
POCATELLO, IDAHO.